



U.S. Department of Justice

CHANNING PHILLIPS

*Acting United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc>

Former accountant sentenced to jail for defrauding two nonprofits

WASHINGTON - Charles Joseph Clifton, a former accountant, was sentenced to nearly three years in prison for a scheme through which he embezzled more than half a million dollars from two Washington, D.C. nonprofits where he had been employed, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Channing Phillips and Gregory Campbell, Jr., Postal Inspector in Charge of the Washington Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, jointly announced today.

Clifton, 34, of Stafford, Virginia, was sentenced to 33 months of imprisonment in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by the Honorable Reggie Walton. Following his release from prison, Clifton will have to pay restitution to the victims in the amount of \$570,990.59 and serve an additional three years of supervised release.

According to the statement of the offenses agreed to by the defendant, from 2004 to 2008 Clifton was the controller for the American Society for International Law, a nonprofit educational membership organization located in the District of Columbia. Clifton used his special access to the Society's banking accounts to embezzle \$425,558.33, including \$48,758.33 he wired from the Society's account to an automobile dealer in Fairfax, Virginia; with those Society funds, Clifton purchased for himself a new 2006 BMW 325I. From 1998 to 2004, Clifton worked as an accountant for the American Bakers Association, a nonprofit trade association headquartered in the District of Columbia. Clifton used his special access to the Association's bank accounts to embezzle \$145,432.26, including \$37,843.26 in Association funds that he used to purchase for himself a new 2004 Audi A4 automobile.

Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips and Postal Inspector in Charge Campbell commended Postal Inspectors Delano Watkins and Jan Kostka for their skillful work on the investigation. They also commended the professionalism of Paralegal Specialist Diane Hayes and Legal Assistant Jamasee Lucas. Finally, they commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy G. Lynch, who prosecuted the case.

###

09-230